



Canadian International School of Egypt
HRT3M- Unit 2 Hinduism
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Youtube Introduction to Hinduism Video
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0w90CPguVGY>

If you ask Google “what is Hinduism?” you will get some _____ results

Hinduism Today magazine founder, Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami (1927–2001), well understood the challenges that all religions face in today’s world, whether from outside or within.

He wrote that every religion consists of the _____ precepts, practices, and customs of a people or society—transmitted from generation to generation—that maintain the connection with _____ realms of consciousness, thus connecting man to _____ and keeping alive the highest ideals of culture and tradition.

Gurudeva observed that if this transmission misses even one _____, a religion could be lost for all time, left to decay in the dusty libraries of history, anthropology and archeology

Not long ago it was feared by some and hoped by many that Hinduism—the religion of _____ people, one sixth of the human race living mostly in _____

But an unexpected Hindu resurgence has burst forth across the globe in the last _____ years, driven in part by the Hindu diaspora and in part by India’s newfound pride and influence.

Hinduism is going digital, working on its faults and bolstering its _____

Leaders are stepping forth, parents are striving for ways to convey to their children the best of their _____ to help them do better in school and live a fruitful life

Temples are coming up across the Earth by the thousands. Communities are celebrating Hindu _____ parading their Deities in the streets of Paris, Berlin, Toronto and Sydney in grand style without worrying that people might think them odd or “pagan.”

Hindu students in high schools and universities are going back to their _____, turning to the Gods in the temples, not because their parents say they should, but to satisfy their _____, to improve their daily life, to fulfill their souls’ call.

Many Faiths Under One Name

A major reason why those new to Hinduism find it difficult to understand is its _____

Hinduism is not a monolithic tradition. There isn’t a one Hindu opinion on things. And there is no single _____ authority to define matters for the faith.

There are several different denominations, the four largest being Vaishnavism, Saivism, Shaktism and Smartism.

In a very real sense, this grand tradition can be defined and understood as ten thousand faiths gathered in _____ under a single umbrella called Hinduism, or Sanatana Dharma.

The tendency to overlook this diversity is the common first step to a _____ perception of the religion. Most spiritual traditions are simpler, more unified and unambiguous.

When we follow dharma, we are in conformity with the _____ that inheres and instructs the universe, and we naturally abide in closeness to God. Adharma is _____ to divine law

Dharma is to the individual what its normal development is to a seed—the orderly fulfillment of an inherent nature and destiny. The Tirukural (verses 31–32) reminds us, “Dharma yields Heaven’s honor and Earth’s wealth. What is there then that is more fruitful for a man? There is nothing more rewarding than dharma, nor anything more ruinous than its neglect.”

Hinduism’s Unique Value Today

It is crucial, if we are to get along in an increasingly pluralistic world, that Earth’s peoples learn about and appreciate the religions, cultures, viewpoints and concerns of their planetary neighbors.

For thousands of years India has been a home to followers of virtually every major world religion, the exemplar of _____ toward all paths. It has offered a refuge to Jews, Zoroastrians, Sufis, Buddhists, Christians and nonbelievers.

Today over one hundred million Indians are _____, for the most part magnanimously accepted by their majority Hindu neighbors.

Such religious amity has occurred out of an abiding respect for all genuine religious pursuits. The oft-quoted axiom that conveys this attitude is “**Ekam sat anekah panthah**,” “_____ is one, paths are many.”

India’s original faith offers a rare look at a peaceful, rational and practical path for making sense of our world, for gaining _____ spiritual insight, and as a potential blueprint for grounding our society in a more spiritually _____ worldview.

In fact, there is no specific time in history when Hinduism _____. It is said to have started with time itself.

The followers of this extraordinary tradition often refer to it as Sanatana Dharma, the “Eternal Faith” or “Eternal Way of Conduct.” Rejoicing in adding on to itself the contributions of every one of its millions of adherents down through the ages, it brings to the world an extraordinarily rich cultural heritage that embraces _____, society, _____, literature, art and architecture.

Unsurprisingly, it is seen by its followers as not merely another religious tradition, but as a _____ and the quintessential foundation of human culture and spirituality. It is, to Hindus, the most accurate possible description of the way things are—eternal truths, natural principles, inherent in the universe that form the basis of culture and prosperity.

Hindu Scriptures

Major religions are based upon a specific set of teachings encoded in sacred scripture. Christianity has the Bible, for example, and Islam has the Koran. Hinduism proudly embraces an incredibly rich collection of scripture; in fact, the largest body of sacred texts known to man. The holiest and most revered are the Vedas and Agamas, two massive compendia of shruti (that which is “heard”), revealed by God to illumined sages centuries and millennia ago. It is said the Vedas are general and the Agamas specific, as the Agamas speak directly to the details of worship, the yogas, mantra, tantra, temple building and such. The most widely known part of the Vedas are the Upanishads, which form the more general philosophical foundations of the faith.

A clear sign that a person is a Hindu is that he embraces Hindu scripture as his _____ and solace through life. While the Vedas are accepted by all denominations, each lineage defines which other scriptures are regarded as central and authoritative for its followers. Further, each devotee freely chooses and follows one or more favorite scriptures within his tradition, be it a selection of Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita, the Tirumantiram or the writings of his own guru. This free-flowing, diversified approach to scripture is unique to the Hindu faith. Scripture here, however, does not have the same place as it does in many other faiths. For genuine spiritual progress to take place, its wisdom must not be merely studied and preached, but lived and experienced as one’s own..

The Nature of God

Some descriptions of Hinduism wrongly state that Hindus do not believe in a one _____ Being but worship a multiplicity of supreme Gods. A common way that this misconception shows up is in the idea that Hindus worship a _____ of Gods: Brahma, the Creator, Vishnu, the Preserver, and Siva, the Destroyer.

To the Hindu, these three are aspects of the one Supreme Being

Indeed, with its vast array of Divinities, Hinduism may, to an outsider, appear _____—a term avidly employed as a criticism of choice, as if the idea of many Gods were primitive and false. But ask any Hindu, and he will tell you that he worships the _____ Supreme Being, just as do Christians, Jews, Muslims and those of nearly all major faiths.

Some Hindus give credence only to the formless Absolute Reality as God; others accept God as a _____ Lord and Creator. Some venerate God as male, others as female, while still others hold that God is not limited by _____, which is an aspect of physical bodies. This freedom, we could say, makes for the richest understanding and perception of God.

The elephant-faced Lord Ganesha is among the most _____, and is perhaps the only Deity worshiped by Hindus of all denominations.

The Nature of the Soul

What does Hinduism say about the soul? The driving imperative to know oneself—to answer the questions “Who am I?” “Where did I come from?” and “Where am I going?”—has been the core of all great religions and schools of philosophy throughout history.

The Nine Beliefs of Hinduism

1 Reverence for Our Revealed Scriptures

2 All-Pervasive Divinity

3 Three Worlds and Cycles of Creation

4 The Laws of Karma and Dharma

5 Reincarnation and Liberation

6 Temples and the Inner Worlds

7 Yoga Guided by a Satguru

8 Compassion and Noninjury

9 Genuine Respect for Other Faiths